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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR BAND-TO-BAND TRANSLATION IN A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

A translator for translating RF signals from one wireless frequency band to another wireless frequency band in a wireless communications system including a base station, a remote antenna, and remote customer premises equipment. The base station is an existing legacy base station, such as a PCS base station, modified to include a translator for translating RF signals in a first wireless frequency band to RF signals in a second wireless frequency band. The base station transmits RF signals in the second band to a remote antenna, which includes a translator for translating the RF signals in the second band back to RF signals in the first band. The remote antenna may be located in a building or neighborhood with a coverage area as small as a picocell. A CPE (such as a mobile phone) communicates with the antenna in a first wireless frequency band, and the antenna communicates with the base station in a second wireless frequency band.